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**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No. 106,
An Act Concerning Retaliation Against Immigrant Workers**

Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, my name is David McGuire. I am the Staff Attorney at The American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut and I'm here to support Senate Bill No. 106, An Act Concerning Retaliation Against Immigrant Workers.

This bill would prevent employers from engaging in unfair immigration-related practices as retribution for an individual exercising his or her rights under Connecticut labor and wage protections. We urge this committee to afford all Connecticut workers the basic protections provided under state labor laws. To deny immigrant workers the rights and protections afforded other employees is an equal protection violation and offends universal human rights principles, which recognize that all persons are entitled to basic labor protections.

In 2013, California passed legislation addressing anti-retaliation for complaining of unpaid wages and included restrictions on reporting immigration status. The California legislation permits courts to suspend or revoke the business license of employers found to have retaliated or taken an adverse action against an employee, former employee or applicant on the basis of their citizenship and immigration status. The legislation also expanded the labor code to protect employees who complain of unpaid wages and prohibits specified "unfair immigration related practices." The bill also authorizes various penalties against employers who engage in unfair immigration-related practices, including a private right of action.

Please take this opportunity to pass Senate Bill 106 which would protect immigrant workers from the fear of reporting unfair and unsafe working conditions because of their immigration status. We urge you to pass this much needed legislation.